

News briefs

Memorial service

A memorial service honoring Capt. Eric Palaro, 81st Fighter Squadron pilot, takes place today at 2 p.m. Palaro died in an aircraft accident Dec. 4 while flying a training mission at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims for or against the estate of Capt. Eric Palaro should contact Capt. Jesse Winters, summary court officer, at 452-6845.

Personnel flight

The 52nd Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight is minimally manned today from noon to 4:30 p.m. for an official function. Regular MPF services resume Monday at 7:30 a.m.

Holiday shuttle schedule

Shuttle bus service stops Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Service resumes Dec. 26 at 8 a.m. Shuttle service also stops Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. and resumes Jan. 2 at 5:45 a.m. Call vehicle dispatch at 452-6645 or 452-6715 for more information.

Vehicle ops holiday hours

The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations compound closes Dec. 24 at 8 p.m. and reopens Dec. 26 at 7 a.m. The compound also closes Dec. 31 at 8:30 p.m. and reopens Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m. Units needing emergency access to the automated fuels service station can sign out a key at the 52nd Security Forces Squadron Law Enforcement Desk. Call vehicle dispatch at 452-6645 or 452-6715 for more information.

Change of command

The 22nd Fighter Squadron change of command takes place Dec. 20 at 4:22 p.m. in Hangar 1. Lt. Col. Henry M. Reed III takes command. Refreshments follow immediately at the 22nd FS, building 360.

Spouses group

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses' Group meets Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem AB Chapel. The event features a potluck dinner.

Dorm baskets

Dorm basket coordinators accept home-baked cookies Monday from 7-9 a.m. at the Spang Club. Volunteers arranging the packages should arrive at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call Sherry Beasley at 01605-850789.

Safety note

German law and Spangdahlem Air Base Instruction 31-204 requires all snow and ice be removed from vehicle windows and mirrors before operation. Also, residents are responsible for removing the ice and snow from on-base and government-leased housing sidewalks leading to their units. The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Housing Maintenance Office and Wing Improvement Center have salt available for use.

Snow clearing tip - the longer it lingers, the harder it is to remove. Also, shovel snow first, then spread a conservative amount of salt on slick areas.

For more information, call the 52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office at 452-7233.

Eifel Times

Vol. 36, Issue 45

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Dec. 13, 2002



Airman 1st Class Karolina Gmyrek

Senior Airman Thomas E. Croucher and Herb Nowaschewski, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron refueling truck maintainers, adjust a truck air compressor regulator in their newly renovated maintenance facility.

New 'home' increases quality of 52nd LRS mechanics' lives

Maintenance building upgrades more than improved comfort

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

When most people think of quality of life certain things come to mind, such as the new sandwich shop on base. For the members of the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron refueling maintenance flight, quality of life means something a little different.

After almost two years of working in a borrowed hardened aircraft shelter, the flight moved back into its newly renovated home in building 168. The move has meant a great deal of improvements, not necessarily over the HAS, but of the building itself.

The upgrades to the building, which was originally built in 1953, not only help quality of life by providing a more comfortable environment in which to work, but a great deal of technical improvements focused at helping get the job done, said Chief Master Sgt. Cliff Coleman, 52nd LRS.

"There's been a lot of technology in the past 50 years and

the upgrades to this facility really show that," Coleman said.

One such improvement is a new exhaust system in each of the three work bays. Before, when the mechanics worked on one of the 16 refueling trucks assigned to Spangdahlem Air Base, the exhaust fumes were filtered out of a bay door. Depending on the winds, the exhaust sometimes reentered the building. With the new exhaust system, a hose attaches to the exhaust and the fumes are sucked completely out of the building.

Charged with maintaining and fixing the refueling truck fleet on base, members of the flight are also ecstatic about the drastic improvement in the building's lighting -- referred to before as a cave. Droplights helped a little, but current lighting is a drastic improvement, according to Staff Sgt. Rich Bagushinski, refueling maintenance flight assistant NCOIC.

One member of the flight really notices the improvements. Herb Nowaschewski, refueling truck mechanic, has worked in that same building since 1969. He said he's seen quite a bit of change in the past 33 years and is grateful for the improvements.

"It's like night and day," Nowaschewski said. "This is a mansion compared to before."

NATO TACEVAL tests Team Eifel wartime readiness

By Lt. Col. Grant Bishop
52nd Fighter Wing Inspections Office

The NATO Tactical Evaluation is less than 45 days from now and for most Team Eifel members it will be their first. This is the first of a series of articles offering wing members some details on what can be done to ensure the wing is Eifel Ready.

NATO TACEVAL is a week-long inspection conducted by military evaluators from NATO countries. Since a portion of the 52nd

Fighter Wing forces can be "loaned" to NATO during a military crisis, the wing is tested on its readiness every few years by NATO evaluators.

The evaluation is set up much like a Phase II inspection, in that the wing is measured on its ability to conduct combat operations. One of the unique differences is that NATO military members and foreign nationals conduct the evaluation. This is a critical point in many respects. Many of the examiners may not be

familiar with U.S. Air Force methods for conducting business.

What does this mean to Team Eifel? Members should take time during the inspection to explain to the evaluators how they're doing their job and its processes. If the processes aren't explained, the evaluator may not understand what the member is doing or why, because his or her country may do it differently.

The TACEVAL is limited to the fenced-in

area around the 81st Fighter Squadron and the squadron's aircraft shelters.

How is the 52nd FW controlled by NATO? The USAFE Commander, Gen. Greg Martin, wears two hats, one as the USAFE commander and the other as the AIRNORTH commander. AIRNORTH headquarters is located at Ramstein Air Base and is the command structure that the 52nd FW falls under when

See Readiness, Page 2

Accidents

By John W. Keeler

52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Fifteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, six of which were major.

The first took place in Herforst near the cemetery. An airman said he followed several vehicles into town and the vehicle directly in front of him suddenly applied the brakes, causing him to do the same. The airman's wheels locked, he lost control of the vehicle, crossed into the opposite lane and collided with an oncoming vehicle. There were no injuries. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

The second was on Perimeter Road near the Binsfeld Gate. An airman traveling around a curve toward the golf course lost control of the vehicle, began to fishtail and drove into a ditch. There were no injuries. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The third was in Trier. An airman reported that as he approached an intersection the traffic light changed from green to yellow, which caused the a vehicle in front of him to slow for the upcoming light. The airman couldn't react quickly enough and collided with the rear of the other vehicle. There were no injuries. The Trier Polizei responded to the accident and issued the airman a citation and fine for causing the accident. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

The fourth was on A-4 near Metz. A family member said her brakes failed as she approached a pay toll, causing the vehicle to hit a median and collide with the rear of another vehicle. There were no injuries. The family member's vehicle was damaged and towed from the scene. The other vehicle sustained only minor damage.

The fifth was near K-38 in Speicher. An airman reported his vehicle stolen from his residence in Speicher government-leased housing. Security forces initiated a search and found the extensively damaged vehicle the next morning. Bitburg Polizei also assisted in the search and found the damages on the vehicle matched damage to a boulder and fence in Beilingen. This incident is still pending investigation.

The sixth was at the traffic circle near A-60. An airman exited the autobahn at the Spangdahlem exit and drove through the traffic circle. Wing security forces members dispatched to the scene, smelled alcohol on the airman. The disabled vehicle was towed from the scene. The case is currently under investigation.

The nine minor accidents involved:

- Seven from inattentive driving.
- One identified as speed too fast for conditions.
- One from wildlife.

In addition, 46 citations were issued. Additionally, from Dec. 5 through Monday, four people were charged with driving under the influence.

Information Tid-Bit

Why do people choose to drink and drive? The 1997 article, "The Problem," written by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Board and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, brings this question to light.

Alcohol-induced loss of judgement

After three drinks, good judgement is undermined. It often fails to cross the mind of the drinker that getting in a car while intoxicated could be fatal.

Lack of planning

People who don't make plans before drinking are often not sober enough when the party is over to make a safe decision on how to get home. This is the primary reason many people end up driving drunk.

Rationalization

"I've driven home before drunk, I can do it again."

People who have driven once while drunk should consider themselves lucky to be alive to remember it. Doing it twice is pushing that luck.

No matter what the rationalization, drinking and driving simply don't mix. Instead of risking a DUI or worse, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 06565-61-2233, a friend, a supervisor or co-worker for a ride home.

Autobahn opening connects tri-county area with countries north, Germany's major cities

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The last part of the Autobahn-60, the partial road between Spangdahlem and Landscheid, has now been completed, connecting Bitburg, Spangdahlem and Wittlich areas.

Wednesday, the road was officially opened to traffic following a ceremony. The ceremony was attended by German politicians, road construction officials and Spangdahlem Air Base leaders.

What does A-60 offer base members? Spangdahlem AB not only gains an easier access to Holland and Belgium, but also to larger German cities, such as Frankfurt and Trier.

In addition to an improved infrastructure, A-60 is also much safer to drive on, especially during the winter. Driving the speed limit, it only takes an extra five minutes to arrive at Spangdahlem from Bitburg using the Autobahn, rather than B-50.

Another advantage: It only takes about 20 minutes to drive from Wittlich to Spangdahlem AB using the new route, thereby expanding the housing market for Team Eifel members.



Graphic courtesy of Bundesministerium fuer Verkehr, Bau- und Wohnungswesen
Map showing Autobahn-60 routes connecting Bitburg, Spangdahlem and Wittlich.

Spang airmen receive nonjudicial punishment

(Editor's note: Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not specify particular punishments for any offense. Commanders considering nonjudicial punishment consider the nature of the offense; the record of the service member; the needs for good order and discipline; and the effect of nonjudicial punishment of the service member and the service member's record.)

During November six Spangdahlem Air Base airmen received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

■ A senior airman violated Article 107

by making a false official statement and Article 134 by altering a public record. The commander imposed a reduction to airman first class and a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated Article 86 by failing to report to work on time. The commander imposed a suspended forfeiture of \$304 pay, 14 days restriction and a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated Article 92 for dereliction of duty and Article 107 by signing a false official statement. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated

Article 91 by being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer, Article 128 by physically assaulting another airman and Article 134 by being drunk and disorderly. The commander imposed a reduction to airman and a reprimand.

■ An airman violated Article 86 by failing to report to work on time. The commander imposed 14 days extra duty, 14 days restriction and a reprimand.

■ An airman violated Article 86 by failing to go to an appointment. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman basic, a suspended forfeiture of \$276 pay for two months and a reprimand.

Readiness

Continued from Page 1

operating within the NATO structure.

AIRNORTH command and control is accomplished via the Combined Air Operations Center 4, also known as CAOC4, located in Messtetten, Germany. All USAFE missions, air raid warnings and intelligence will come through this large underground command post.

The CAOC communicates through the 52nd FW command post; however, since the wing is simulating that it's deployed, the command post will simulate that it's in a foreign country. This is the tricky part, but it's important to understand it completely. Lets look at some examples.

Combined Air Operations Center 4 sends a message to the "Faraway Command Post," simulated by 52nd FW Command Post, which asks for 12 F-16 missions. The request is then passed to the 52nd Expeditionary Fighter Wing Deployed Wing Operations Center. Wing deployed commanders make a decision whether they can meet the request or not. If not, they go back up the chain to CAOC 4 and inform them of their inability to complete the request.

Another example of how this command and control works would be if a pilot lands and observes an unusual enemy tactic during his mission. The pilot informs 52nd EFW intelligence members after landing. The report must be up-channeled to the CAOC 4, using the same method above, within 30 minutes from the time the pilot shuts down the aircraft engine.

Under NATO operations, command and control is divided

into three areas: operations, logistics and survive-to-operate, also known as STO. Wing command and control structure for "deployed" units will be commanded by Lt. Col. Rick Johnson who will oversee the 52nd FW effort as well as head up operations. The logistics commander is Lt. Col. Greg Hoffman and the STO commander is Lt. Col. Christopher Moore.

The 52 FW will have two Phase II exercises before the

TACEVAL and conducts Individual Core Skills training Dec. 16-19, 27, 30, Jan. 13-15 and 21-25. Wing members should remember that other NATO militaries train their people to different levels than the United States. Typically, NATO militaries have less people and expect their members to do more. This translates to becoming experts in a variety of fields.

Regardless of each wing member's normal job, every-

one is expected to know how to fight fires, give medical treatment and engage with the enemy on the ground with an M-16 if required. How will the evaluators test our capabilities?

They will not only observe member's actions, but conduct one-on-one interviews. They will expect airmen to know the information without referring to checklists. Therefore, players must ensure they are trained and ready.

The 52nd FW team is about 750 people strong and will come from all elements around the base.

Although only 750 people are working directly in the tactical area of responsibility, the evaluation is a Team Eifel effort. It will take many base units to perform the tasks of the Host Nation of Faraway Air Base. Wing members need to put on their game faces and show NATO that they're up to the task.

Members should take time during the inspection to explain to the evaluators how they're doing their job and its processes. If the processes aren't explained, the evaluator may not understand what the member is doing or why, because his or her country may do it differently.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Kornelia Pitsch, 52nd Fighter Wing Community Relations Office assistant, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Kornelia Pitsch

Unit: 52nd Fighter Wing Community Relations Office

Duty title: Community relations assistant

Hometown: Spangdahlem

Years in service: Has worked on Spangdahlem Air Base since 1980.

Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: "Mrs. Pitsch serves as assistant advisor to the 52nd Fighter Wing commander and deputies for the most critical host nation relations and foreign protocol matters," said Col. Thomas Groznik, 52nd FW vice commander. "She assists in planning, organizing and conducting a community relations program designed to promote positive relations and foster acceptance and mutual esteem between the base and surrounding communities. 'Connie' schedules and coordinates the base tour program, with more than 1,500 visitors touring the base in 2002."

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: I volunteer for the Child Abuse Prevention Program in Germany and support international organizations that improve children's lives in third-world country orphanages. For more than 13 years, Pitsch has been involved in her children's school councils and was recently selected as parent speaker for her son's class.

What do you do for fun? During the summer, I visit flea markets in the area and in the winter I love to do crafts and read. I enjoy bringing my German friends together with American co-workers for crafts or to party at local events, such as the Wittlich Oktoberfest.

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? I would like to ask everyone to be patient when in line at the gate and to not take shortcuts through the town of Spangdahlem. This is because children are walking to school during the same hours most Team Eifel members are driving to work in the morning.

Eifel Salutes

52nd Operations Group

No shortage of scholars at the 23rd Fighter Squadron, **Staff Sgt. Curtis Jackson** walked away from Airman Leadership School recently with distinguished graduate honors. Honors also go to **Staff Sgt. Carrie Williams** for "top notch" support during a recent multi-million dollar logistics review. **Tech. Sgt. Patricia Wilson** did an excellent job fusing five products into one data retrieval system for the OG ... and last but not least is **Capt. Michelle Vestal** for doing an "awesome job" coordinating the use of flight simulators by some recent visitors.

52nd Maintenance Group

As usual, the folks of the maintenance group excel at keeping Spangdahlem Air Base's aircraft in top shape ... the four-some of **Staff Sgt. Joe Gasak**, **Senior Airman Jered Harris** and **Airmen 1st Class Salaam Harris** and **Bryan Stevens** completed five A-10 "phase inspections" while aircraft were "double docked" and thereby increased the aircraft fleet's phase hours by more than 50. We hear that's a good thing, great job!

52nd Mission Support Group

The MSG is on the move ... read on. First salute goes to the **airmen of the First Term Airmen Center** who helped the 52nd Mission Support Squadron move furniture recently ... MSS now has a first-class customer support facility. Also helping move (people), **Senior Airman Evan Hubbard** is commended for his "outstanding" customer service by helping out a "sister" squadron by getting them needed deployment gear prior to their recent departure. In turn, **Jennifer Appleby** is commended for being a great sponsor to the Fuzzell family ... and finally, also in the moving business of some sort is **Tech. Sgt. David Wynes** who is doing a great job keeping things running at the air terminal operations work center.

52nd Medical Group

The following members provided outstanding support during a recent Organizational Safety Assessment: **Majs. Patrick Kane** and **James Lasswell** and **Master Sgts. Darryl Swartz** and **Terry James**. (Compiled by 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.)

Wing chaplain named USAFE best

Honor bestowed on Spang chaplains three years running

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

U.S. Air Forces in Europe recently named Chaplain (Maj.) Cassandra Thomas the 2002 Outstanding Chaplain Service Chaplain. The major command recognition is the highest-level award given to the chaplain service.

Thomas, a 52nd Fighter Wing senior Protestant chaplain, said she's thrilled to be the recipient -- an honor that Spangdahlem Air Base chaplains have commanded for three years running. She said she doesn't really have a philosophy about the job she's been summoned to do.

"I just feel called to be a chaplain to military members and their families," Thomas said.

According to Thomas' supervisor, Chaplain (Col.) Carl Andrews, she answers that call with a savvy ministry skill.

"She has done an outstanding job, and I'm excited that she's receiving the proper credit."

After arriving at Spangdahlem AB, Thomas improved the cooperation between Protestant services. Her preaching and pastoral skills kicked off a service attendance increase, jumping from 60 to 180 worshippers in just a few months.

While deployed to Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Thomas offered more than 40 bible studies and worship services for more than 1,500 people. She used her in-depth knowledge of early Christian history and led nearly 60 people on off-base spiritual retreats to Biblical sites in Turkey.

Back at Spangdahlem AB, Thomas is the director of the singles program. She started an outreach agenda, including a Friday night

"Coffee House" ministry, offering an alcohol-free environment for single airmen. She helps ensure the monthly "dorm dwellers" dinners are provided and served. Additionally, under her leadership, the Spangdahlem AB chapel singles group took the lead on a ski retreat in the Alps for all European singles.

While the chaplain has a great desire to help military members and their families, this isn't her only task. During the wing's recent Operational Readiness Inspection, she built, trained and ensured the disaster control group chaplain service emergency response and deployments kits were inspected and ready to go.

Whatever the mission, Thomas attacks it with fervor. Because of that intensity, Andrews said she affects just about everyone she comes into contact with.

"The respect Chaplain Thomas receives is indicative of the works she does on an ongoing daily basis. Her energy never wanes," said Andrews. "Her concern is constantly with those she services. She is, simply stated, the best."

Though excited about the award, it doesn't change the way Thomas looks at her job.

"People come from many backgrounds, walks of life, faiths and types of relationships. I try to listen, empathize and help where I can. I strive to bring a smile or word of encouragement to people," she said. "I want to develop my skills of ministry in the deployed setting to help troops cope with stress, war and their relationships while deployed. All of this keeps me busy and challenges me. But, I wouldn't have it any other way."



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Members of the 52nd Fighter Wing Command Staff make up this week's Top Saber Team.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 52nd Fighter Wing Command Staff

Unit responsibilities: Provides the wing commander with administrative support ranging from work group manager duties, traditional administrative support, distinguished visitor and all protocol support, and local German community relations.

Number of members: 10

How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing mission? The command staff keeps the wing and vice commander's schedules running smoothly to ensure they have enough time to work the big issues. All wing related paperwork is quality checked to ensure the best possible product. The protocol and community relations staff ensure distinguished visitors are given a proper Eifel welcome and stay during their visit and that our ties with the local community remain strong.

First Term Airmen Center

Preparing today's newest for tomorrow's challenges

By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Originally designed to fix a rising discharge rate among airmen and a broken base detail program, the First Term Airmen Center transitions first duty station airmen from a training environment to the operational Air Force. One of the goals of FTAC is to prepare airmen to become mission ready in a short amount of time.

The two-week program provides an avenue to in process airmen and gives them a solid founda-

tion of base and ancillary training and briefings. Spangdahlem Air Base airmen assigned to FTAC are also involved in team building by performing base retreat ceremonies, helping keep the base tidy during "operation clean sweep," and by going local orientation tours to Trier, where they experience German culture and learn about the train system.

FTAC is an Air Force program instituted at virtually every installation in the Air Force.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

Above: Airmen attending Spangdahlem Air Base's First Term Airmen Center stand ready for a uniform inspection. FTAC helps new airmen transition from technical school training to their first base. Below: Staff Sgt. Tracy Driggers, 52nd Mission Support Squadron, inspects uniforms, ensuring everyone complies with Air Force standards.



Airman 1st Class Jason Sundin, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, checks a first term airman's gas mask fit during initial chemical warfare training.



Above: Senior Airman Matthew Berry assists Airman Kyle Terry with Security Awareness Training and Education. Left: Airman 1st Class Carlos Ulloa, left, Airman Matthew Gartzke, center, and Airman Raphael Hood, participate in a retreat ceremony at the base flagpole.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Team Eifel's guide to waste disposal



File photos

Yellow recycling bag

(Wash and rinse all containers before disposal.)

- ↻ Milk cartons
- ↻ Aluminum foil
- ↻ Biscuit tubes
- ↻ Bottle caps
- ↻ Animal food cans
- ↻ Drink bags
- ↻ Cellophane
- ↻ Bleach bottles
- ↻ Straws
- ↻ Frozen food boxes
- ↻ Nylon nets for produce
- ↻ Jar lids
- ↻ Yogurt cups
- ↻ Wax drink cups
- ↻ Styrofoam meat trays
- ↻ Plastic meat packaging
- ↻ Steel cans
- ↻ Soda cans
- ↻ Potato chip cans
- ↻ Plastic utensils
- ↻ Detergent containers
- ↻ Plastic CD containers

- ↻ Plastic butter tubs
- ↻ Old combs
- ↻ Cereal box plastic liners

Paper

- ↻ Advertising inserts
- ↻ Catalogs
- ↻ Coloring books
- ↻ Detergent boxes
- ↻ Animal food bags
- ↻ Egg cartons
- ↻ Envelopes
- ↻ Junk mail
- ↻ Paperback books
- ↻ Newspapers
- ↻ Notebooks
- ↻ Magazines
- ↻ Cereal boxes

Green waste

- ↻ Leaves, branches
- ↻ Dead plants
- ↻ Grass clippings

Glass

- ↻ Bottles and jars



Trash

- Animal waste in sealed or tied plastic bags
- Ashes
- Bone
- Broken windowpanes
- Ceramics, porcelain
- Coffee grounds, filters
- Cotton swabs
- Diapers
- Doughnut boxes
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Dust, dirt from vacuums
- Foil butter wrappers
- Food waste

- Grease
- Greasy paper plates
- Ice cream boxes
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Videotapes
- Tissues and napkins
- Tape
- Torn stuffed animals
- Popsicle sticks
- Plaques, trophies
- Picture frames, photos
- Broken toys
- Toothbrushes
- Pens
- Used cloth rags

Don't trash Christmas this year

By Staff Sgt. Bryan Althouse
52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Maintenance
Engineering Service Contracts Section

Christmas is almost here and with it comes the preparation for the holiday, delicious meals with friends and family and, of course, the joy of opening gifts on Christmas day. Unfortunately, Christmas also brings large amounts of wrapping paper, boxes and packaging materials that get thrown away.

The amount of material generated Christmas day alone exceeds the limited amount of trash and paper container space available. Add to this to the two-day German holiday Dec. 25-26, and it's easy to see how containers throughout military housing areas overflow.

To reduce the burden and the mess of the trash and paper containers, follow these suggestions.

For paper, plastic and trash, first, separate recyclable materials and trash as it's generated. Doing this will ensure the materials will get recycled and that we all will have a neater housing area.

Wrapping paper, tissue paper and boxes all belong in the dumpster labeled with a blue paper recycling sticker. Before disposal, reduce the size of the material as much as possible. All boxes must be broken down so they lay flat and wrapping paper should be tightly compressed and bagged to reduce the amount of space it takes up.

When containers are full, people often dump the material on the ground or stuff it in the overflowing container, creating an eyesore and a bigger mess for all. Instead, bag materials that don't fit in a container or stuff excess materials into a large cardboard box. This

makes it easier for pick up.

Packaging materials other than paper, such as plastic and styrofoam, belong in a yellow bag. Contractors will not pick-up these items if placed in trash bags.

When there's no more room in the yellow-bag containers, neatly place the material in the enclosure. Don't block or place extra bags or materials in front of the containers. If bags are placed in front of the container, the contractor can't access them and the containers will not be emptied. In addition, all residents are encouraged to use the base recycling centers located on Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex.

The recycling centers have containers designed to handle large amounts of material and are a great way to help keep the base clean and neat.

Recycling centers collect odd disposables, offering residents place to rid of bulk waste

By Staff Sgt. Bryan Althouse
52nd Civil Engineer Squadron
Maintenance Engineering Service Contracts Section

Old computers and used cans of paint can take up needed storage space, but where can people dispose of such odd items? They aren't accepted in bulk trash.

The base recycling center is the place to rid of items not normally picked up by the solid waste contractor. Team Eifel members living on the economy may also use the BRC when they can't wait for the scheduled bulk trash or household hazardous waste disposal day in their village.

Additionally, Eifel military community members may use the BRC to get rid of recyclables when large amounts are produced, such as wrapping paper during the holiday season.

The BRC accepts household hazardous waste, large bulky items that don't fit into the trash containers, large amounts of cardboard and all electronic appliances.

The center is also where people can take all of their broken household items when moving, rather than piling them on the curb until bulk trash pickup day comes. However, the BRC isn't the place to dispose of daily trash and recyclable materials.

People may use the center if they're bringing waste from work centers, as long as the waste isn't required to be turned in to supply or the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

The following types of waste are accepted at each BRC:

- ↻ Wood
- ↻ Paper: Carbon or soiled paper, such as used pizza boxes, aren't recyclable.
- ↻ Metal: Only 100 percent metal items may be placed in the metal container. All automotive parts such as transmissions, wheel rims, fenders and other parts should be recycled at the auto skills center in building 189 on Spangdahlem Air Base.
- ↻ Plastic and styrofoam
- ↻ Bulk waste: This container is for large items that don't fit into the regular trash containers. These include furniture items, such as sofas, chairs and mattresses. Automotive parts and electronic items aren't bulk trash.
- ↻ Electronic appliances: Anything electric- or battery-powered.
- ↻ Glass: Same as glass containers. Lids must be removed.

↻ Clothes and shoes: Old clothes and shoes in good condition.

↻ Household hazardous waste: Used cleaning products, paints, solvents, pesticides, lighter fluid, unemptied aerosol cans, propane tanks and dry-cell batteries are considered household hazardous waste. Automotive products such as used oil and anti-freeze must be taken to the skills development centers for disposal. Call the environmental flight at 452-5124 to dispose of lithium or other types of batteries.

The Spangdahlem AB BRC is located across from building 44 on Barksdale Avenue. It's open Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Bitburg Annex BRC is located in building 2032 on the French Caserne. It's open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both centers are closed Sunday and on German holidays.

Off-base recycling

Each county has unique requirements for solid waste and hazardous waste disposal; however, the following basic recycling guidelines typically apply.

Regular trash disposal pickup usually takes place once every two weeks. Paper and yellow bag disposal dates also vary, but for most communities, it's picked up once every four weeks.

Bulk trash pickup typically takes place about four times annually. Household hazardous waste disposal also takes place on specific dates for each village.

People living in the Bernkastel-Wittlich, Bitburg-Pruem or Trier-Saarburg county can see trash, yellow bag, paper and bulk trash pick up dates on the main Spangdahlem Intranet page at <http://intranet.spangdahlem.af.mil> on the bulletin link. The trash pick-up dates link is in the lower right hand corner of the page. Select the county and the township from the spreadsheet tabs across the bottom of the schedule.

Landlords should be the first source of information for all trash and recyclable material disposal.

Call the 52nd CES Maintenance Engineering Service Contracts Section at 452-6183 for more information.



Community Mailbox

Dinner with Santa

Children can have dinner with Santa Claus at the Spangdahlem AB Burger King Saturday from 5-7 p.m. Cost of \$6 includes a children's meal and a photo with Santa. The event also features games and door prizes.

Chapel services

Religious services take place at the following dates and times. Call the 52nd Fighter Wing Chapel Service Office at 452-6711 for details.

Spangdahlem Chapel

- Advent penance, Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Mass, Dec. 24 at 7:30 a.m.
- Epiphany potluck, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.
- Protestant candlelight, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.
- Jewish Shabbat, each Friday at 5 p.m.

Bitburg Annex Chapel

- Advent penance, Thursday at 7 p.m.
- Mass, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.
- Mass, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m.
- Protestant candlelight, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.
- Liturgical with communion, Dec. 24 at 9:30 p.m.
- Watchnight, Dec. 31 at 10:30 p.m.

Education center hours

Holiday office hours are as follows:

- Base education center, closed, Dec. 24-25, 31 and Jan. 1.
- University of Maryland University College office, closed, Dec. 23-Jan. 1.
- City Colleges of Chicago office, closed Dec. 23-Jan. 1.
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1.
- Oklahoma University office, closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1.

OCSC wine tasting

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club winter wine probe takes place Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. in the Spang Club. Call Cindy Lou Wooten at 06561-944558 by Jan. 3 to make reservations.

College grant

Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant applications are currently available by visiting www.afas.org or at either family support center location on Spangdahlem AB or the Bitburg Annex. The grant, sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, is designed to help sup-



Airman 1st Class Karolina Gmyrek

Caring celebration

Bitburg Elementary School second graders, Ryan Polen, center left, and David Price celebrate the character trait, "caring," by dancing in the play, "Character Counts!," Dec. 5. Various BES classes participated in the play, sharing ideas about caring. The play is one of six character trait assemblies to take place at the school throughout the year, designed to improve student communications skills. Other traits students will study include respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness and citizenship.

plement funding for military sons and daughters attending an accredited college, university, or vocational school on a full-time basis. For more information, call Bill Triplett, base financial counselor, at 452-6422.

Education center news

- Course 5, senior NCO professional military education course, is now Course 12. The course may be available in January. Materials are currently on backorder. For more information, call the education office at 452-6063 or visit [www.maxwell.af.mil/au/cepme/course5-\(no hyphen\)/home_5.htm](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/cepme/course5-(no%20hyphen)/home_5.htm).
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a two-week course in aircraft accident investigation starting Jan. 6. Also, a three-weekend class in air cargo management begins Jan. 11. Call 452-7553 for details.

La Leche

Breastfeeding mothers meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex conference room. Nurslings and children are welcome. Call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 for details.

Community bank schedule

Community Bank holiday hours are as follows:

Spangdahlem AB

- Closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.
- Dec. 31, open 9 a.m. to noon.
- Jan. 8, open noon to 4 p.m.

Bitburg Annex

- Closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

- Dec. 31, open 10 a.m. to noon.

- Jan. 9, open noon to 4 p.m.

Commissary news

Commissary holiday hours are as follows:

Spangdahlem Air Base

- Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 25, closed.
- Dec. 31, open 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 1, closed.

Bitburg Annex

- Dec. 23, open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 25, closed.
- Dec. 31, open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 1, closed.

Also, visit www.commissaries.com for Defense Commissary Agency news, sales promotions and food facts. Authorized shoppers may also purchase gift certificates at the site.

ITT branch closes

The Bitburg Annex Information, Tickets and Tours office is closed as of Dec. 20. The Spangdahlem AB ITT Office is located in the community activity center. Call 452-6567 or 452-6207 to reserve ITT tours.

Class certificates

The American Red Cross offers gift certificates for classes, first aid kits, face masks and more. Certificates are valid for up to one year. Call 452-9241 for details.

Volunteers needed

■Base postal services accepts volunteer assistance during the holiday season. Hours are flexible at both locations.

■Base tax shelter officials seek volunteers. Internal Revenue Service training takes place Jan. 13-16.

Call Kelly Childs, base volunteer resource program manager, at 452-9491 for details.

CAC news

■A LAN party takes place Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Gamers test their skills against other connected players. Participants must bring their computer and headphones. Cost is \$5 per person.

■The production, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," takes place Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Cost to attend the musical variety show is a toy or baked good donation for the Speicher orphanage.

■The chess club meets Dec. 21. Beginners to advanced players are invited. Several game sets and clocks are available for use.

Call the base community activities center at 452-7381 for more information.

American Legion

The American Legion Eifel Post 20 sponsors a free children's Christmas party Saturday from 1-5 p.m. at the Speicher Zum Flockenburg. The event features food, games and activities. Parents should bring a small gift for their child for Santa to present.

Family support center news

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem AB building 307. Call 452-9491 to register.

- Preseparation consultation, Monday from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Predeployment briefing for active-duty and family members, Tuesday from 8-9 a.m.
- Resume writing, Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.
- Welcome bags for newcomers, Wednesday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Sponsorship training, Thursday from 10-11 a.m.

SSEMC holiday party

The Spangdahlem Spouses' and Enlisted Members' Club Christmas party takes place Dec. 20 in the Metterich Stein-Reiter Gasthaus. Make reservations by Saturday by calling Chris or Chuck Faull at 06565-933347.

Bitburg High School

School officials seek volunteers to join the school booster club. A committee meeting takes place Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room. Also, officials seek people to organize a parent volunteer club. Call Elke Zschaebitz at 06565-619202 for details.

Der Markt

Advertisement policy

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, by close of business Wednesday, **10 days prior to publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Mueller.....Commander
Maj. Melinda Morgan.....Chief, Public Affairs
2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez.....Deputy, PA
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey.....Editor
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....PA specialist
Iris Reiff.....Leisure writer

Published
by Verlag &
Druck Wittich
KG, a private
firm in no way
connected with
the U.S. Air
Force, under
exclusive writ-
ten contract with the 52nd Fighter Wing.
This commercial enterprise newspaper
is an authorized publication for mem-
bers of the U.S. military services over-
seas. Contents of the Eifel Times are
not necessarily the official views of, or
endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the
Department of Defense or the
Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in
this publication, including inserts or pur-
chases, does not constitute endorse-
ment by the Department of Defense,
the Department of the Air Force or
Verlag & Druck Wittich KG of the prod-
ucts or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publi-
cation shall be made available for pur-
chase, use, or patronage without regard
to race, color, religion, sex, national ori-
gin, age, marital status, physical handi-
cap, political affiliation or any other non-
merit factor of the purchaser, user or
patron.

Editorial content is edited, pre-
pared, and provided by the 52nd
Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office staff.
All photographs are U.S. Air Force pho-
tographs unless otherwise indicated.



Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a
way to get answers to questions
you still have after using your
chain of command.

Direct Lines of general
interest will be published in the
Eifel Times and may be edited or
paraphrased for brevity or clarity.
Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.a
f.mil

■Mailed to 52nd FW/PA,
Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE
09126

■To PA in building 23.

■Concerns may also be sent
via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are
accepted. To receive a personal
response you must include your
name and phone number. Call the
Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more
information.

Sortie
Scoreboard

Unit Goal Flown

22FS	97	111
23FS	52	87
81FS	79	46

Sorties flown
Dec. 2-8

Viewpoint

Dec. 13, 2002

Page 7

Commander's perspective

Leader shares how 470th ABS contributes to wing mission, supporting NATO alliance

By Lt. Col. Dale Takenaka
470th Air Base Squadron, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

(Editors Note: U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials recently nominated the 470th Air Base Squadron, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, along with the 52nd Mission Support Squadron and the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence special recognition award for their support of the U.S. and alliance mission.)

The 52nd Fighter Wing mission is to be constantly ready to promote stability and thwart aggression to achieve U.S. and NATO objectives. Each and every day, members of the entire 52nd Fighter Wing perform the mission to support the alliance. The 470th Air Base Squadron's contribution to this mission is to provide support to the U.S. Air Force contingent assigned to NATO in the geographical area of Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium called the Tri-Border region.

As a proud 52nd FW squadron, the 470th ABS provides U.S. Air Force base support for 600 Air Force members at the NATO E-3A Component. Per international agreements, the squadron also provides ancillary support to more than 1,400 international service members and their families from 13 different nations on the base.

Additionally, we provide administrative support to 150 Air Force members assigned to the NATO Reaction Force Air Staff at Kalkar, Germany, and the Regional Headquarters Allied Force North at Brunsum, The Netherlands, and several of their

associated NATO subordinate units. The 470th ABS Medical Flight, a proud spoke of the 52nd Medical Group hub, provides medical and dental services for more than 3,000 U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army and Canadian forces and their families. In the true sense of supporting the USAFE mission and the alliance, we execute the air base squadron spectrum of military support for the Americans and allies in the Tri-Border region.

In the past year, the 470th ABS had a specific task to accomplish in providing support to the alliance. In response to NATO's historic Article 5 declaration and the U.S.'s request for NATO support of Operation Noble Eagle, a large NATO AWACS contingent deployed to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., to support the U.S. Homeland Defense mission. NATO's Operation EAGLE ASSIST deployed up to seven NATO AWACS aircraft between October 2001 and May 2002, flying 367 sorties over the U.S. More than 800 NATO members from 13 nations deployed over the course of this operation.

The squadron also provided the requisite Air Force pre-deployment and deployment support to our deploying members. Our family readiness program was key in taking care of our deploying members and their families. In the spirit of supporting the alliance, we also provided family readiness support to deploying international military members and their families. Readiness specialists briefed each of the other 12 national support units to prepare their service members and provided, to the fullest extent possible, the same family readiness support to the

family members of the deployed international service members.

In November, many parts of the alliance provided NATO Prague summit security coverage. Geilenkirchen's NATO AWACS component flew missions over the Czech Republic. They linked up with the 606th Air Control Squadron, deployed to Prague, to provide command and control of alliance aircraft patrolling the Czech airspace. Their collective mission was to provide security for the NATO summit against possible terrorist attacks.

As we go about our jobs in the 52nd Fighter Wing, we must all be prepared to execute our operational missions in support of U.S. and alliance objectives. As the agreements from the NATO Prague summit are implemented, we need to be prepared for changes in the type of support we provide to the alliance. The creation of the NATO response force, the approval of the Prague capabilities commitment, the commissioning of the NATO missile defense feasibility study and the candidacy of Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, will bring about changes in how the U.S. and NATO promotes stability and thwarts aggression.

The 470th ABS is ready, vigilant and proud, providing full spectrum air base support to U.S. service members and our NATO allies. We are prepared to meet the requirements of today and the challenges of tomorrow. Each group and wing staff agency, in its own special way, is doing its specific mission to support the alliance. Seek, Attack, Destroy!

Finding solutions

Wing pay team strives to meet MilPDS challenges

By Master Sgt. Gene Jackson
52nd Comptroller Squadron
Financial Services Office

The 52nd Fighter Wing is very fortunate to have outstanding and dedicated people in the military personnel flight and finance working the many pay problems created by the Military Personnel Data System, formerly known as MilMOD.

The infamous launch of MilPDS one and one-half years ago created havoc for many Air Force members. The personnel and finance worlds were shook to the core, the effects of which are still being felt today.

Our base level finance and MPF personnel were helpless for some time in assisting customers affected by MilPDS. They felt the understandable fury of our customers' frustration over not getting pay problems resolved. Several pay systems came on line here shortly after MilPDS implementation. Adding these systems further complicated the chaotic situation.

To solve local personnel data mis-

takes created by the new system, finance and MPF members created the wing pay team. MPF and finance have had a great working relationship for quite a while now and have worked closely on many pay problems arising from MilPDS.

MPF and finance members went a step further to improve this relationship by creating the wing pay team that meets on a weekly basis. Many customers don't understand that MPF, not finance, initiates transactions starting or correcting their pay issues such as initial enlistment bonus, reenlistment bonus, career status bonus and promotions. Meeting on a weekly basis enables us to focus on finding solutions to resolving our customer's pay problems more quickly.

Recently the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Director of Personnel sent a combined personnel and finance team to Spangdahlem Air Base to perform a staff assistance visit on our pay resolution processes. We were one of the last USAFE bases visited by this team.

The USAFE team trained us on how to more effectively use the new Case Management System database. This database system was implemented to enhance contact between the many agencies involved in pay problem resolution. It has growing pains, but it is already returning great dividends. Using this system has helped us identify a MilPDS system glitch. Members were mistakenly "promoted" to airman at the six-month point when they were already airman first class. We reported this to the USAFE team who validated our theory. They then sent it to the Air Force Personnel Center where specialists are working to find a solution.

After two days packed with briefings, training, and inspections by the USAFE team, team officials lauded Spangdahlem AB's pay team for the healthy relationship between the personnel and finance offices.

"USAFE is light years ahead of other major commands on fixing pay issues and Spangdahlem's pay team is

light years ahead of other USAFE wings," commented Master Sgt. Michael Whirlow, USAFE Director of Personnel Office.

He also mentioned three members for their outstanding teamwork: Staff Sgts. Aimee Zick and Kim Armijo, and Senior Airman Amy Francis.

Customers can also help the wing MPF and finance improve service as MilPDS is enhanced. Members should check their Leave and Earning Statements for errors, especially during promotion month. Members should also ensure time-in-grade and time-in-service dates are correct.

Additionally, customers can help us prevent last minute pay issues by extending within 30 days of signing the DEROS option report of individual personnel, or RIP. When discrepancies are discovered, visit the MPF with supporting documentation as soon as possible for correction. For more information, call the MPF at 452-6553 or the finance office at 452-6730.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Ghost Ship (R)

In a remote region of the Bering Sea, a boat salvage crew discovers the eerie remains of a grand passenger liner lost for more than 40 years. Once onboard, the crew must confront the ship's horrific past and face the ultimate fight for their lives. (Violence, gore, language and sexuality.)

Saturday

Swimfan (PG-13)

Ben has it all — friends, a terrific girlfriend and he's on the fast-track to an athletic scholarship. That is until the new girl in town sets her sights on him and becomes an unexpected nightmare. (Thematic elements, sexual content, disturbing images and language.)

Sunday

Ghost Ship

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Swimfan

Thursday

The Four Feathers (PG-13)

In 1884, the nations of Europe were scrambling to divide Africa among themselves. A Muslim religious leader, Muhammad Ahmed, led the Sudanese Arabs in a revolt against British rule and General Charles Gordon was dispatched to quell the rebellion. (Battle sequences, violence and sensuality.)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Santa Clause II (G)

The new Santa has gotten used to the job, and is well-loved across the world. However, a new clause is brought to his attention: The Mrs. Clause. Santa must find a bride, so he hits the singles scene to try and find a mate.

Ballistic: Ecks VS Sever (R, 10 p.m.)

In the deadly game of international espionage, sworn enemies Ecks and Sever find that the one they're trying to defeat might be the only one they can trust. (Violence.)

Saturday

Santa Clause II

One-Hour Photo (R, 10 p.m.)

A young suburban family finds themselves the objects of obsession of an employee at their local one-hour photo lab after they drop some family photo's off there. (Sexual content and language.)

Sunday

Santa Clause II

Monday

Ballistic: Ecks VS Sever

Tuesday

One-Hour Photo

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

*Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.*



Staff Sgt Karen Z. Silcott

Angels helping angels

Staff Sgt. Jamie Disney, 52nd Medical Support Squadron, hangs children's wish lists on an Angel Tree at the Spangdahlem Air Base BXtra Nov. 27. Angel Tree is a base program which provides wing families the opportunity to help other wing families who are financially unable to buy Christmas gifts for their children. Unit first sergeants collect wish lists of qualifying children and volunteers hang them on the Angel trees for people to choose. Only four days after more than 150 wish lists went up, 80 percent were picked up. This year, the Air Force Sergeant's Association wraps the gifts and unit first sergeants will distribute them to the families in time for Christmas.

Landscheid Christmas market officials offer special invite to military community

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The neighboring community of Landscheid invites the local military community to their third annual Weihnachtsmarkt taking place Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In previous years, Niederkail has hosted a historical market, which typically draws more than 5,000 visitors. This year, an even larger group of visitors is expected to arrive with the opening of Autobahn-60.

Landscheid, known for its spring market held in March, gratefully accepted the offer to put on this year's Christmas market.

Event organizers extend their welcome to the Eifel military

community by asking for an American choir to sing Christmas songs in the afternoon. The U.S. performance would certainly add to the holiday spirit, they said.

The market opens at 11 a.m. with an official welcome by the local mayor. The Landscheid Church Choir is scheduled to provide the first music performance following the mayor's greeting.

An American Santa will hand out free gifts to children at about 3 p.m.

The market also features more than 30 Christmas huts offering glass decorations, dolls, art, floral arrangements and a variety of different Christmas ornaments.

A variety of traditional winter holiday treats will also be available.

Sports Shorts

U.S. Forces bowling tourney

The annual U.S. Forces Bowling Tournament takes place Jan. 27-30 at the Vogelweh Bowling Center in Kaiserlautern, Germany.

All U.S. ID cardholders assigned to U.S. Air Forces in Europe are eligible to compete. People TDY to USAFE for 30 days or more also qualify. Permissive TDY is authorized for active-duty participants. The top active-duty Air Force male and female will receive a bid to the Air Force Trial and Training Camp March 5-13.

Entry fee is \$34 per person, \$136 for a four-person team. Tournament registration deadline is Jan. 17.

Call DSN 489-6543 or e-mail henry.holden@ramstein.af.mil by Jan. 17 for lodging arrangements. For more information, call Henry Holden at DSN 489-6543 or Master Sgt. Doug Kingery at DSN 496-7935.

Air Force wrestling

Application deadline at the base fitness center to attend Air Force wrestling training camp is Jan. 13. Pick up a copy of Air Force Form 303 at the center or

access the form on the Air Force e-Publishing Web site at www.e-publishing.af.mil/.

Training takes place March 2-May 15 at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and Colorado Springs, Colo., for qualifying male and female wrestlers. A background in wrestling, judo or other martial arts is desired. For more information, call Bruce Cannady at 452-6496 or e-mail Richard Estrella, Air Force wrestling coach, at fivestar-fam@juno.-no-hyphen-here.com.

Ice hockey tourney

Teams from Ramstein AB and Spangdahlem AB compete Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Bitburg Eissporthalle. Admission is 3 euro.

Fitness center news

The following activities take place at the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Call 452-6496 or 452-6634 for details.

■Holiday hours: The Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center is closed Dec. 25. It's open Dec. 24, 26 and 31, and Jan. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Bitburg Annex fitness center is closed Dec. 25 and

Jan. 1. It's open Dec. 24, 26, and 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■Polar Bear 5K fun run, Dec. 20 at 8 a.m. Run starts and ends at the center. First 25 participants to donate gifts for the Angel Tree Foundation earn prizes.

Golf

The Eifel Mountain Golf Course Pro Shop is located in building 58 on the west end of Arnold Boulevard on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-6821 for more information.

Throughout December, the Pro Shop snack bar offers basewide breakfast and lunch delivery services. Deliver charge is \$2 for minimum order of \$20 or more. The snack bar serves breakfast weekdays from 7-11 a.m. and lunch 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 452-6821 for details.

Bowling

Eifel Lanes Bowling Center is located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 300. Call 452-6217 for more information.

Bowl in the New Year, Dec. 31 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. No reservations required.